

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to environment; requiring plastic yard waste bags to be compostable;
1.3 establishing biodegradable standard for certain plastics; providing civil penalties;
1.4 amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 115A.931; proposing coding for new
1.5 law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 325E.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 115A.931, is amended to read:

1.8 **115A.931 YARD WASTE PROHIBITION.**

1.9 (a) Except as authorized by the agency, in the metropolitan area after January 1,
1.10 1990, and outside the metropolitan area after January 1, 1992, a person may not place
1.11 yard waste:

1.12 (1) in mixed municipal solid waste;

1.13 (2) in a disposal facility; or

1.14 (3) in a resource recovery facility except for the purposes of reuse, composting, or
1.15 cocomposting.

1.16 (b) [Renumbered 115A.03, subd 38]

1.17 (c) On or after January 1, 2010, a person may not place yard waste or
1.18 source-separated compostable materials generated in a metropolitan county in a plastic
1.19 bag delivered to a transfer station or yard waste compost facility unless the bag meets all
1.20 the specifications in ASTM Standard Specification for Compostable Plastics (D6400).
1.21 For the purpose of this paragraph, "ASTM" has the meaning given in section 296A.01,
1.22 subdivision 6. For purposes of this paragraph, "metropolitan county" has the meaning
1.23 given in section 473.121, subdivision 4, and "ASTM" has the meaning given in section
1.24 296A.01, subdivision 6.

2.1 (d) A person who immediately empties a plastic bag containing yard waste or
2.2 source-separated compostable materials delivered to a transfer station or yard waste
2.3 compost facility and removes the plastic bag from the transfer station or yard waste
2.4 compost facility is exempt from paragraph (c).

2.5 (e) A city of the first class with an organized collection system for collecting solid
2.6 waste is exempt from paragraph (c) until January 1, 2013.

2.7 Sec. 2. **[325E.046] STANDARDS FOR LABELING PLASTIC BAGS.**

2.8 Subdivision 1. "Biodegradable" label. A manufacturer, distributor, or wholesaler
2.9 may not offer for sale in this state a plastic bag labeled "biodegradable," "degradable,"
2.10 or any form of those terms, or in any way imply that the bag will chemically decompose
2.11 into innocuous elements in a reasonably short period of time in a landfill, composting, or
2.12 other terrestrial environment unless a scientifically based standard for biodegradability is
2.13 developed, and the bags are certified as meeting the standard.

2.14 Subd. 2. "Compostable" label. A manufacturer, distributor, or wholesaler may
2.15 not offer for sale in this state a plastic bag labeled "compostable" unless, at the time of
2.16 sale, the bag meets the ASTM Standard Specification for Compostable Plastics (D6400).
2.17 Each bag must be labeled to reflect it meets the standard. For purposes of this subdivision,
2.18 "ASTM" has the meaning given in section 296A.01, subdivision 6.

2.19 Subd. 3. Enforcement; civil penalty; injunctive relief. (a) A manufacturer,
2.20 distributor, or wholesaler who violates subdivision 1 or 2 is subject to a civil penalty of
2.21 \$100 for each prepackaged saleable unit offered for sale up to a maximum of \$5,000
2.22 and may be enjoined from those violations.

2.23 (b) The attorney general may bring an action in the name of the state in a court of
2.24 competent jurisdiction for recovery of civil penalties or for injunctive relief as provided in
2.25 this subdivision. The attorney general may accept an assurance of discontinuance of acts
2.26 in violation of subdivision 1 or 2 in the manner provided in section 8.31, subdivision 2b.

2.27 Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2.28 Sections 1 and 2 are effective January 1, 2010.